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# 04/09/1985 - FCC Grants EIU Channel 51

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

April 9, 1985

Local/Area

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University has been granted a construction permit by the Federal Communications Commission for UHF Channel 51, which will be a non-commercial, educational television station.

The announcement was made today by Dr. Dan Thornburgh, Director of University Relations.

Channel 51 will have a broadcast range of approximately 24 miles. The construction permit represents the final distribution phase in the development of the Radio & Television Center, according to John Beabout, Director. The Center was started about four years ago.

Beabout said "everything is virtually in place. We need only to purchase a transmitter and antenna, and to install the master control room. Other equipment and personnel are ready to go."

Beabout said the 15-foot antenna will be placed on top of the broadcast tower erected in January near the Buzzard Building.

The University has until Sept. 26, 1986 to put the station on line. However, Beabout said the station is expected to become operational by Spring 1986. The call letters WEIU-TV have been requested for Channel 51.

Programming will be essentially a continuation of programming now on Liberty Cable Premium 1, Channel 12. The exception will be a possible inclusion of late and early evening news programs.

Eastern-originated programs are now on the air from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday.

In January 1984 the University applied to the FCC to have Channel 51 allocated to Charleston. In June 1984 a second application asked that the channel be allocated to Eastern and this was subsequently approved.